



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Tennessee Farm Facts

Tennessee Field Office • PO Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204 • (615) 781-5300 • www.nass.usda.gov

In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Census of Agriculture Crop Values Livestock Operations Farm Numbers

Annual Milk Production Hay Prices Received by Farmers

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Farmers to See Return on Investment with 2007 Census of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture on February 4, 2009. "The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, is the nation's largest and most comprehensive agricultural dataset, providing extensive coverage of U.S., state, and county agriculture," said Debra K. Kenerson, Director of NASS's Tennessee Field Office. "We routinely get requests for rare or specialty commodities and the census is often the sole source of these data," Kenerson added. Kenerson also noted that the history of the Census of Agriculture dates back to 1840 when it was first conducted in conjunction with the decennial Population Census.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture puts the total number of farms in Tennessee at 79,280, down nine percent from the 2002 census. The census definition of a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year.

Land in farms decreased to 11.0 million acres from 11.7 million in 2002, while the average farm size between 2002 and 2007 increased an average of 5 acres from 133 to 138. The average age of Tennessee's principal farm operators was 57.8 years, compared with 56.0 in 2002. There were 69,320 principal male operators and 9,960 principal female operators in 2007, compared with 78,182 males and 9,413 females in 2002.

Kenerson indicated there were factors which impacted the decline of farms in Tennessee, including the Tobacco Buyout Program, when some producers chose to take a lump sum payment and retire from farming. Another factor was an on-going drought. Although the worse seemed to occur in late summer and into the fall of 2007, Tennessee had experienced worsening conditions for several years prior. A number of our smaller farms, which are livestock producers, had a lack of grazing and water supplies. When this was coupled with rising feed and other input costs, it resulted in liquidation of herds or a reduction in numbers that no longer qualified those operations as farms.

Census results are available online and in various publications to be issued by NASS. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

Tennessee State Profile – 2007 Census of Agriculture

	2007	2002	% of change
Number of Farms	79,280	87,595	-9
Land in Farms (acres)	10,969,798	11,681,533	-6
Average Size of Farm (acres)	138	133	+4
Market Value of Production	\$2,617,394,000	\$2,199,814,000	+19
Crop Sales (44 %)	\$1,147,786,000	\$1,072,548,000	+7
Livestock Sales (56 %)	\$1,469,608,000	\$1,127,266,000	+30
Average Per Farm	\$33,015	\$25,113	+31
Government Payments	\$95,744,000	\$59,231,000	+62
Average Farm	\$5,528	\$3,694	+50

Tennessee Crop Values

Production value for Tennessee's 2008 principal field, fruit, and vegetable crops, at \$1.79 billion, increased \$600 million from 2007's \$1.19 billion. The increase in values can be primarily attributed to an increase in production coupled with stronger prices. Showing an increase in value were **apples, corn, cottonseed, grain sorghum, hay, peaches, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat**. Declining from the previous year were **cotton, snapbeans, squash, and tomatoes**. A significant increase in acreage and price resulted in **soybeans** being the number one valued crop in the State at \$434 million. Completing the top five were **hay**, \$406 million; **corn**, \$335 million; **wheat**, \$198 million; and **cotton and cottonseed**, \$196 million. The value of Tennessee's fruit and vegetable crops increased 4 percent to \$59.4 million. Fruit crops rebounded from the previous year's spring freeze, but fresh market vegetable prices were down slightly. Fresh market **tomatoes** were valued at \$38.1 million; fresh market **snapbeans**, \$12.4 million; **squash**, \$1.36 million; commercial **apples**, \$2.99 million; and commercial **peaches**, \$2.53 million.

Tennessee's **soybean** crop value was up \$236.7 million from the previous year. The 2008 marketing year average price was down 15 percent, but production was up 30.5 million bushel. **Hay** remained the number two ranked crop, as prices were up 11 percent and yields were up 40 percent. **Corn**, last year's top valued crop, was third in 2008. Despite yields being up 11 percent, the 170 thousand fewer acres caused the crop to drop to third. Despite this, overall value was up 5 percent thanks to prices being up 18 percent. Ranking fourth and breaking into the top five in 2008 was **wheat**. With an additional 200 thousand acres sown and yields up 54 percent, Tennessee producers were able to harvest 32.8 million bushel. Despite near record yields, **cotton and cottonseed** fell to fifth in total value this year, as harvested acreage declined by 45 percent.

Crop Values: Tennessee, 2007-2008

Crop	Unit	Average Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Apples	lb.	.400	.344	40	2,991
Corn for grain	bu.	3.80	4.50	318,212	334,530
Cotton	lb.	.556	.603	160,128	154,850
Cottonseed	ton	180.00	228.00	36,540	40,812
Grain Sorghum	cwt.	6.94	6.10	4,780	6,839
Hay, All	ton	93.00	103.00	249,375	405,705
Alfalfa	ton	175.00	222.00	10,500	13,320
All Other	ton	91.00	101.00	238,875	392,385
Peaches	ton	¹	1,580	¹	2,528
Snapbeans, Fresh Market	cwt.	32.00	34.00	14,144	12,444
Soybeans	bu.	10.30	8.75	197,657	434,350
Squash	cwt.	18.30	18.30	1,376	1,356
Tobacco, All	lb.	1.962	2.109	75,823	110,448
Dark Fire-Cured	lb.	2.420	2.490	39,010	57,370
Burley	lb.	1.590	1.730	33,072	42,731
Dark Air-Cured	lb.	2.180	2.230	3,741	10,347
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	cwt.	34.00	34.00	39,406	38,080
Winter Wheat	bu.	5.05	6.05	53,833	198,198

¹No significant commercial production in 2007 due to freeze damage.

2008 U.S. Livestock Operations

The number of operations with **cattle** totaled 956,500 for 2008, down 1 percent from 2007. **Beef** cow operations in 2008, at 757,000, were also down 1 percent from the previous year. The number of **milk cow** operations for 2008 totaled 67,000, down 4 percent from 2007. The number of operations with hogs totaled 73,150 for 2008, down 3 percent from 2007. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 85.1 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with **sheep** totaled 82,330 for 2008, down 1 percent from 2007. Of all sheep operations that include **breeding** sheep, 92.5 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 6.2 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.3 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 32.6 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 22.7 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 44.7 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with **goats** totaled 149,800 for 2008, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 6,500, down 10 percent from 2007. **Milk** goat operations totaled 29,000, up 6 percent from 2007. **Meat** goat operations totaled 128,800, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat because places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class, Tennessee, 2003-2008 ¹

Year	Economic Sales Class					Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$250,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 & Over	
Number						
2003	65,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	87,000
2004	63,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	85,000
2005	61,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	83,000
2006	59,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	81,000
2007 ²	55,800	19,800	1,650	950	1,300	79,500
2008	55,900	19,100	1,650	950	1,400	79,000

¹ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would be sold during the year. ² Revised.

Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class, Tennessee, 2003-2008

Year	Economic Sales Class					Total	Average Size Farm
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$250,000- \$499,999	\$500,000 & Over		
1,000 Acres							Acres
2003	4,700	3,600	950	950	1,400	11,600	133
2004	4,650	3,600	950	950	1,450	11,600	136
2005	4,400	3,600	950	1,000	1,550	11,500	139
2006	4,300	3,600	950	1,000	1,550	11,400	141
2007 ²	3,650	3,900	900	800	1,750	11,000	138
2008	3,750	3,700	900	800	1,750	10,900	138

Tennessee Milk Cow Numbers Continue to Decline

Tennessee: Milk produced on Tennessee farms during 2008 totaled 948 million pounds, down 50 million pounds from 2007. Average milk produced per cow, at 16,068 pounds, increased 211 pounds from 2007. Milk cow numbers in the state averaged 59,000 in 2008, down 4,000 cows from the previous year's average of 63,000.

U.S.: The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2008 was 190 billion pounds, 2.3 percent above 2007. Revisions to 2007 production increased the annual total 52 million pounds. Revised 2008 production was up 293 million pounds from last month's publication. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 20,396 pounds for 2008, 192 pounds above 2007. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 14.8 percent from 1999. The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2008 was 9.32 million head, up 1.4 percent from 2007. The average number of milk cows was revised up 44,000 head for 2008.

Milk Cows and Production: Tennessee, 2003 - 2008

Year	Number of Milk Cows on Farms ¹	Milk Production Per Cow	Milk Production ²
	Thousands	Pounds	Million Pounds
2003	79	15,253	1,205
2004	75	15,400	1,155
2005	70	15,743	1,102
2006	67	15,657	1,049
2007	63	15,857	999
2008	59	16,068	948

¹ Average number on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: Number and Milk Produced by Quarter, Tennessee, 2007 - 2008

Year	Milk Cows ¹				Milk Production ²			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
1,000 Head					Million Pounds			
2007	66	64	62	61	270	272	224	233
2008	61	59	58	59	256	255	212	225

¹ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Hay Prices Received by Farmers, by Month, Tennessee, 2003-2008

Crop Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Marketing Year Average ¹
Dollars Per Ton													
Alfalfa													
2003	115.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	115.00	110.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	110.00	110.00
2004	100.00	100.00	105.00	110.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	105.00
2005	115.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	125.00	125.00	120.00
2006	120.00	120.00	125.00	125.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	122.00
2007	145.00	145.00	145.00	155.00	160.00	165.00	170.00	190.00	210.00	215.00	215.00	215.00	175.00
2008	215.00	215.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00							222.00
All Other													
2003	52.00	50.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	52.00	55.00	57.00	55.00	57.00	58.00	54.00
2004	55.00	53.00	50.00	52.00	53.00	52.00	51.00	51.00	50.00	49.00	49.00	51.00	51.00
2005	50.00	51.00	54.00	56.00	55.00	55.00	54.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	56.00	55.00	54.00
2006	54.00	53.00	55.00	57.00	58.00	57.00	58.00	58.00	60.00	63.00	64.00	66.00	57.00
2007	75.00	75.00	80.00	83.00	90.00	93.00	100.00	105.00	110.00	110.00	115.00	120.00	91.00
2008	110.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	95.00							101.00
All													
2003	54.00	52.00	54.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	54.00	56.00	58.00	56.00	58.00	59.00	55.00
2004	56.00	54.00	52.00	54.00	55.00	54.00	53.00	53.00	52.00	51.00	51.00	52.00	52.00
2005	52.00	53.00	56.00	58.00	58.00	57.00	56.00	55.00	56.00	56.00	58.00	57.00	56.00
2006	56.00	55.00	57.00	59.00	59.00	58.00	60.00	60.00	63.00	67.00	66.00	68.00	58.50
2007	77.00	77.00	82.00	85.00	93.00	95.00	105.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	93.00
2008	115.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	100.00							103.00

¹ Marketing year is May 1 of current year through April 30 of the following year.